

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Reference is made to commonly-assigned and copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/628,192 [[\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket 84218)]], entitled METHOD AND SUBSTRATE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PRINTING PLATE by Michael J. Simons et al., and Serial No. 10/628,639 [[\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket 84546)]], entitled METHOD AND COMPOSITION FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PRINTING PLATE, by Michael J. Simons et al., both filed herewith, the disclosure(s) of which are incorporated herein. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A coated hydrophilic layer suitable for the invention may or may not comprise a crosslinked cationic polymer, in particular polyethyleneimine, as described in commonly-assigned and copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/628,192 [[\_\_\_\_\_ (Docket 84218)]], entitled METHOD AND SUBSTRATE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PRINTING PLATE by Michael J. Simons et al., filed herewith. --